



Embracing Health Equity – We Are Health Equity!

Throughout the remainder of this year, all CPH staff will receive monthly Health Equity “News Blasts” to raise awareness on topics relevant to achieving optimal health for all. These are brought to you by the CPH [Diversity & Equity Committee](#) and the [CPH Health Equity Section](#).

What is health equity?

Health equity means that every person has an opportunity to achieve optimal health regardless of:

- Color of their skin
- Country of origin
- Religion
- Language spoken
- Level of education
- Gender identity/expression
- Sexual orientation
- Job they have
- Neighborhood they live in
- Whether or not they have a disability

A health inequity is a difference or disparity in health outcomes that is systematic, avoidable, and unjust.

Why does every CPH employee need to understand this?

One of the Core Values of CPH is Equity and Fairness, stating that our “clients, partners and coworkers know that we will interact with them with fairness and equity, and that we strive to deliver our programs and services and operate in a manner that is just and free from bias or prejudice.”

– **Columbus Public Health**

“Creating health equity is a guiding priority and core value of APHA. By health equity, we mean everyone has the opportunity to attain their highest level of health.”

– **American Public Health Association (APHA)**

“Achieving health equity, eliminating disparities, and improving the health of all groups is an overarching goal for Healthy People 2020 and a top priority for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

– **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)**

What can CPH employees do to address health inequities?

- Join one of the CPH Diversity & Equity (D&E) Subcommittees (supervisor permission is required).
- Attend D & E equity educational sessions when they are offered and your schedule permits.
- Submit topic and presenter ideas for monthly D & E educational sessions.
- Become familiar with the department’s non-discrimination policy.
- Visit the CPH Health Equity Intranet page for additional resources and to follow the work of the D & E Subcommittees.
- Think about how health inequities affect those you serve.
- Talk to your supervisor when you perceive barriers to the [social determinants of health](#) and health inequities among those you serve.

Watch for the next News Blast coming your way! More at [Embracing Health Equity](#).

For more information on health equity initiatives at Columbus Public Health, please contact: Malaika Brewer at 614-645-1345 or MABrewer@columbus.gov

